

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Crown Copyright documents reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England.

www.nationalarchives.gov.uk

The National Archives give no warranty as to the accuracy, completeness or fitness for the purpose of the information provided.

Images may be used only for purposes of research, private study or education. Applications for any other use should be made to The National Archives Image Library, Kew, Richmond, Surrey TW9 4DU.

EASTERN

F.O.
371

1947

PALESTINE

Fine No. 5017

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO 371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

**CLOSED
UNTIL**

61932

1978

E

E 5017

PALESTINE

12 JUN

2

Registry Number

E 5017/5017/31

FROM

J.M. Alston

No.

67

Dated

6.11.1946

Received in Registry

8, June 1947

12 - -

British Garrison in Palestine.
Enclosed copy of letter from Alston to Major General Hottel discussing reply to his note to fact finding about the size of the present Garrison and all the reasons for maintaining military force on this scale. Should they ask such questions.

Last Paper.

(Minutes.)

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

61932

(Action completed.)

J.P. 30/6

(Index)

J.P. 30/6

Next Paper.

5240

54559

I am sure that the Colonial Office are right in thinking we shall be under fire about this. The fact that we had to reserve our position regarding the eventual recommendation of the U.N. gave the Jewish propagandists a good opportunity.

Service Liaison Dept.

✓ Almy 12/6

D. J. Beith

June 12

(BEITH)

✓ J.P. 13/6

Impacted 13/6

Please re-enquire when the chips are still reply.

SEE E 5537.

✓ J.P. 18/6

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E
Easton Dept - 3
M
19/6/47

9th June, 1947.

SECRET

E 5017

17, dear Butler.

12 com

I enclose a copy of a letter Lloyd has sent to Hollis, asking for the advice of the Chiefs of Staff on the instructions which should be conveyed to the High Commissioner for Palestine regarding the reply to be given to any question from the United Nations Fact-Finding Committee about the size of the present garrison and our reasons for maintaining military forces on this scale.

Mr. Jerech Jones thought that Mr. Bevin should be informed of this.

In sincerity
J.M. Martin

M. NEVILLE FULMER, ESQ., O.B.E., D.V.O.

1	
2	
1	
3	
4	
5	
2	
6	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPY

4

Secret.

Colonial Office,
Downing Street,
S.W.1.

9th June, 1947.

Dear Hollis,

It seems more than likely that the United Nations Fact-Finding Committee during their forthcoming visit to Palestine will ask for information regarding the size of the present garrison and our reasons for maintaining military forces on this scale. Questions might also be asked about the purpose of military installations recently constructed in the territory.

My Secretary of State understands that the Committee have been subject in New York to propaganda to the effect that His Majesty's Government were not sincere in referring the Palestine problem for decision by the United Nations, since it is their intention, whatever happens, to retain their position in the country. To avoid any risk of appearing to confirm suspicions of this kind, Mr. Creech Jones feels it to be most desirable that we should be prepared to give without hesitation the most complete replies which are permissible to the questions I have mentioned and he would be grateful if the Chiefs of Staff would consider the matter and advise on the terms of instructions on this point which might be conveyed to the High Commissioner and the General Office Commanding in Palestine.

The United Nations Committee is expected to start its inquiries in Palestine about the 16th of June.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) T.I.K. Lloyd.

Major-General
Sir Leslie Hollis, KBE., CB.

1	
2	
1	
3	
4	
5	
2	
6	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

4

E

5

1947

PALESTINE

E 5459

24 JUN

Registry
Number

FROM

No.

Dated

Received
in Registry

E 5459/5017/11

10

bound

18 June

24 -

Retention of British Forces in Palestine.

Transmit copy of letter from S.R. Edmonds 13009/184/47 Pol of 18 June to J.M. Addie enclosing correspondence from M.L. Gollan M.P. containing protests from his constituents about the retention of British troops in Palestine.

Last Paper.

5-329

References.

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

2/11 M. Graham - Harrow
N^o. 10.
from Prof. Lee
July 17

(Action
completed.)

J.C. 1625/16

(Index)

M.L. 13/9/46

Next Paper.

E 5472

(Minutes.)

HB. 24/16
22 P.P. in Graham - Harrow to M.L. Gollan
15 June.

HB. 28/7
The Mayor No. 10 to the Secretary of 18/7.

HB. 23/7

1
2
3
4
5
6

References:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

7
Colonial Office,
Downing Street, S.W.1.
75009/984/47 Pal. 18th June, 1947.

Dear Addis,

Thank you for your letter of the 10th June, enclosing correspondence from Mr. T. Scollan, M.P.

I attach a draft of a possible letter in reply to Mr. Scollan, which he might pass on to his constituent who protests about the retention of British Forces in Palestine. As the question raised is one of intimate concern to the War Office and of some interest to the Foreign Office, I am sending copies of this letter and its enclosure, with a copy of the letter from Mr. Scollan's constituent to Drew at the War Office and McAlpine at the Foreign Office, in order that they may inform you direct if they agree with its terms.

Yours sincerely,

(Sgd.) E.R. EDMONDS.
Private Secretary.

J.M. ADDIS, Esq.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPY

7, High Street,
Lochwinnoch,

14/5/47

Mr. Scollan,

Dear Sir,

On behalf of two other Mothers and myself who all have sons in the Army in Palestine, I implore you to do all you can to have our boys withdrawn from there. I don't think another country in the world would have tolerated what we have done. To allow our boys to be murdered in cold blood and not to take immediate action and have it stopped once and for all. Does the Government realise what this all means to us, the mothers of these boys? Each living in dread that our son may be the next victim of these things, and almost every night lying sleepless wondering what the news from Palestine will be in the morning.

We three mothers feel that the time has come for the Government to take steps to have "finished" written to this stage of affairs and that whatever the decision at the U.N.O. meetings now taking place may be, that we take action now and that no more time be wasted. We have been long suffering but we have now come to the end of our patience.

If action is not taken now and our sons are still to be left open to these murderous attacks then we are determined to call on all Mothers and wives with men serving in Palestine to take action and demand that the Government withdraw all our troops before another precious life is lost. Surely you, if you are a Father, feel that this

/state

8

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

state of things has gone on too long and that we are entitled to make this demand. When the war was on we gave our sons and if they had been killed then we should have accepted it knowing that that would have been the price they had to pay. But the war is over and we are rebelling in earnest. - So I earnestly hope that this matter will have immediate attention from the Government. We shall await your answer. Being M.P. for this constituency we felt you were the proper person to write to. So on behalf of Mrs. Courtney (who lost a son in Italy), Mrs. Laidlaw and myself, I ask that you give this matter your immediate attention.

Thanking you in anticipation,

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Sgd.) RITA G. BRYSON.

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

DRAFT

T. SCOLLAN, ESQ., M.P.

.....

You wrote to me on the 21st May enclosing a letter on behalf of three mothers in your constituency who have sons serving in Palestine. I suggest that you might reply to your constituent on the following lines.

In the peace settlement which followed the 1914/18 war, Great Britain was entrusted by the League of Nations with a Mandate for Palestine, and thus became responsible for the administration of the country under the terms of an International Trust. This responsibility included the maintenance of law and order. Despite the efforts of successive governments to find a solution to the political problems resulting from the Mandate, the end of the recent war found these problems no nearer solution. On assuming office in August 1945 the present government found itself faced with a situation in which the two communities in Palestine held completely divergent views on the political future of their country. His Majesty's Government therefore determined to use their best endeavours to reconcile the rival claims and reach a negotiated settlement. The history

/of

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1			2	

Reference: -

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

of our efforts in this direction is well known and we were brought to the conclusion that the Mandate as originally accepted by this country was no longer workable and that the problem must be referred to the United Nations as the only body competent to decide what the next step should be. The problem is now being examined by a special committee of the United Nations who are to report to the next General Assembly in September this year. We earnestly hope that at the September meeting the General Assembly of the United Nations will reach a workable conclusion on the future of Palestine.

Until such a decision is reached, His Majesty's Government continue to hold the responsibility for the government of the country, and it would be unthinkable that we should in the meantime withdraw our administration and security forces, whose presence in the country is the only guarantee against chaos and bloodshed. His Majesty's Government fully appreciate the natural anxiety of relatives of soldiers serving in Palestine and, as has been made clear on many occasions in Parliament and elsewhere, share their

/horror

1		
2		
1	3	
	4	
	5	
	2	
	6	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

error at the outrages committed by extremist terrorist groups in that country. The Palestine Government and the military authorities are taking every possible precaution to safeguard the lives of our troops and police and they are doing all in their power to eliminate terrorism. His Majesty's Government fully realise the dangers, discomforts and calumnies to which our troops are exposed in the execution of their duty, but it is essential in the present disturbed state of Palestine to keep a number of troops at hand to give assistance to the Civil Government in carrying out the obligations which flow from our tenure of the Mandate.

Relatives of soldiers serving in Palestine may be assured that the well-being and safety of the troops is the constant concern of His Majesty's Government and the military authorities.

1						
2						
3						
4						
5						
6						

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON
 Reference:-
FO
 371/61932



Eastern Dept.

13

10, Downing Street,
Whitehall.

For immediate reply
please.

P. F. Kinnon 15th June, 1947.

Draft attached

16/7
143.12/7

INDEXED

Dear Mr. Kinnon

Edmonds sent you a copy of his letter of the 18th June to Addis with copies of a letter from Mrs. R.G. Bryson, protesting against the retention of our troops in Palestine, and of a draft reply to Mr. T. Scollan, M.P., who had brought this letter to the Prime Minister's notice. There is no record of our having been informed of your concurrence in the draft, though you may possibly have spoken to Addis, who is now on leave. A reply ought to be sent to Mr. Scollan in the near future, and I should be grateful if you would let me know as soon as possible whether you agree with the terms of the draft.

I am writing in similar terms to Drew, War Office.

Yours truly

Herbert Morrison - HM

R.D.C. McAlpine, Esq.,
Foreign Office.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

NOTHING TO BE WRITTEN IN THIS MARGIN.

3149 Wt. 26469/137 100m 9/46 (51) F.&S.

Registry
No. *E5459/5017/31*

Top Secret.
Secret.
Confidential.
Restricted.
Open *[initials]*

*Draft. Letter to
Mr. Graham
Harrison*

*(from the
Private
Secretary)
H.
16/7.*

*H.B.
17/7*

OUT FILE

17 July

*17a
14*

My dear Francis,

*Please refer to your
letter of two days ago (dated
however the 15th June) on the
subject of a draft reply to
Mr. Scollar, M.P., who had
brought to the Prime Minister's
attention a letter from one of
his constituents about Palestine.*

*I think, as you suggest,
that our reply was probably
given verbally when we first
saw the draft, to which we
have no objection.*

Yours ever

*(Sgd) John H.B. 16/7
Hemiker*

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371/61932



Mr. Henniker

Foreign Office

5459/5017/31.

with the compliments
of

Mr. F. Graham-Harrison

Your ref.
E 5459/5017/31

10 Downing Street
18th July, 1947

1					
2					
3	1				
4					
5		2			
6					

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

COPY

2. Dept
17.11.47
10, Downing Street
S.W.1.

18th July, 1947.

INDEXED

...
The Prime Minister has asked me to write in answer to your letter of the 21st May, with which you sent him the enclosed letter on behalf of three mothers in your constituency who have sons serving in Palestine, and to express his regret that it has not been possible to send you an earlier reply. He suggests that you might reply to your constituent on the following lines.

In the peace settlement which followed the 1914/18 war, Great Britain was entrusted by the League of Nations with a Mandate for Palestine, and thus became responsible for the administration of the country under the terms of an International Trust. This responsibility included the maintenance of law and order. Despite the efforts of successive governments to find a solution to the political problems resulting from the Mandate, the end of the recent war found these problems no nearer solution. On assuming office in August 1945 the present government found itself faced with a situation in which the two communities in Palestine held completely divergent views on the political future of their country. His Majesty's Government therefore determined to use

their....

1	
2	
3	1
4	
5	2
6	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

their best endeavours to reconcile the rival claims and reach a negotiated settlement. The history of our efforts in this direction is well known and we were brought to the conclusion that the Mandate as originally accepted by this country was no longer workable and that the problem must be referred to the United Nations as the only body competent to decide what the next step should be. The problem is now being examined by a special committee of the United Nations who are to report to the next General Assembly in October this year. We earnestly hope that at the October meeting the General Assembly of the United Nations will reach a workable conclusion on the future of Palestine.

Until such a decision is reached, His Majesty's Government continues to hold the responsibility for the government of the country, and it would be unthinkable that we should in the meantime withdraw our administration and security forces, whose presence in the country is the only guarantee against chaos and bloodshed. His Majesty's Government fully appreciate the natural anxiety of relatives of soldiers serving in Palestine and, as has been made clear on many occasions in Parliament and elsewhere, share their horror at the outrages committed by extremist terrorist groups in that country. The Palestine Government and the military authorities are taking every possible precaution to safeguard the lives of our troops and police and they are doing all in their power to eliminate terrorism. His Majesty's Government fully realise the dangers, discomforts and casualties to which our troops

are....

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

are exposed in the execution of their duty, but it is essential in the present disturbed state of Palestine to keep a number of troops at hand to give assistance to the Civil Government in carrying out the obligations which flow from our tenure of the Mandate.

Relatives of soldiers serving in Palestine may be assured that the well-being and safety of the troops is the constant concern of His Majesty's Government and the military authorities.

(SGD) A. NOYLE.

Parliamentary Private Secretary.

T. Scollan, Esq., M.P.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE

Group *Fo*

Class *371*

Piece *61932*

Following document(s) retained in the

Department of origin under Section 3 (4)

of the Public Records Act, 1958

E 5742/5017/31

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

6

1947

E

E 5537

29

PALESTINE

26 JUN

Registry Number

E 5537/5017/31

FROM

Ministry of Defence, London

No.

Dated

Received in Registry

20. June 26

British Garrison in Palestine.
Re answer to letter (E 5017/5017/31)
How treatment reply from Dept of Staff
to question of reply to be made for
Joint Standing Committee on Life of
British Garrison in Palestine.

Last Paper.

5472.

(Minutes.)

References.

J.A.P. J.P. (H.Y) 84 (Final) 18/6.

HAB. 287/6

(Print.)

J.A.P. P'ster tel 1197 23/6

- B.O. - 1375 25/6

(How disposed of.)

HAB. 1/7

(Action completed.)

G.L. 2/7

(Index)

13/7/48

Next Paper.

7141

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

1	2	3	4	5	6
1	1	2	2	2	2

2. PALESTINE - UNITED NATIONS FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE *End* ²¹

J.P.(47)84(Final) - *attached*

E 5537

THE COMMITTEE considered a report by the Joint Planning Staff examining a letter from the Colonial Office asking for the advice of the Chiefs of Staff on the instructions which should be sent to the High Commissioner and to G.O.C., Palestine on the military information to be given to the United Nations Fact-Finding Committee.

SIR RHODERICK McGRIGOR said he thought that the forces with which the Fact-Finding Committee were concerned were those stationed in Palestine and belonging to the Garrison of Palestine. For that reason the 4 destroyers and 4 frigates or mine-sweepers enumerated under the Naval forces should be deleted. They were, in fact, part of the Mediterranean Fleet and although engaged in the prevention of illegal immigration, were not part of the Palestine Garrison. In fact, many units of the Mediterranean Fleet were engaged in anti-illegal immigration activity, and should any Naval Units be included in the information given to the Fact-Finding Committee it might conceivably lead to unacceptable restriction of the activities of the Mediterranean Fleet.

G.O.S(47) 78 *et huty*

20 June 1947

1	2	3	4	5	6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Handwritten notes and initials:
2) Eadlin
J.M.

He suggested, therefore, that the use of naval forces to counter illegal immigration should be omitted, except that of the base party which formed a part of the Palestine Garrison.

SIR FRANK SIMPSON said although he fully agreed with the views of the Vice Chief of the Naval Staff regarding the Naval basis for providing information to the Fact-Finding Committee, one of the reasons for the large size of the army garrison was to counter illegal immigration. The prevention of illegal immigration and the guarding of internment camps, i.e., Ahstlit, was a considerable commitment for the Army. In justifying the size of the Army in Palestine, therefore, it would be essential to retain the illegal immigration argument.

Referring to the size of the Army he was of the opinion that some extension of the description of its size could safely be made, and he suggested that paragraph 2 under "Army" should be amended to read -

"(including locally raised forces). The equivalent of 2½ Divisions, that is to say, with the necessary administrative backing amounting to 80/100,000 men".

AIR VICE MARSHAL FOSTER suggested that it might be preferable to inform the Colonial Office that the Commanders-in-Chief, Middle East were being instructed to give to the Committee such details of the forces stationed in Palestine as were required, provided only that such information would not prejudice operations. By this means he thought it would be possible to give the Committee the fullest information available without prejudice to ourselves.

SIR FRANK SIMPSON said this would allow too much latitude. There were wider aspects about the release of information affecting orders of battle which local commanders could not appreciate. The terms of release should be decided in the U.K.

In discussion the following amendments were agreed to the draft letter to the Colonial Office at annex to the report -

- (i) Paragraph 2, under "Army" - add after "divisions" - "that is to say, with the necessary administrative backing amounting to 80/100,000 men".
- (ii) Paragraph 2, under Navy - delete - "4 destroyers, 4 frigates or minesweepers and".
- (iii) Paragraph 4, delete and substitute - "On security grounds the Chiefs of Staff would prefer not to divulge any more information than that already published in this report. They realise, however, that there may well be strong political arguments in favour of disclosing to the Fact-Finding Committee the size of our forces in the country in more detail, in which case they would be prepared only for the figures for the Naval base party, Army and Air Force given in paragraph 2 above to be revealed. They would have no objection to this information being given to the Committee by the G.O.C., Palestine or the High Commissioner".

+ CMD. 6808 dated April 1946

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

ANNEX I.

Copy of a minute (reference C.O.S.668/21/6/7)
dated 21st June, 1947, from General Hollis to
the Minister of Defence.

The Colonial Office have asked the Chiefs of Staff for their advice about the disclosure of military information to the United Nations Fact Finding Committee. This Committee is likely to ask for information about the size of our present garrison in Palestine and our reasons for maintaining forces on the existing scale. They may also ask about the purpose of military installations recently constructed in Palestine.

2. The Chiefs of Staff, in composing their reply, have borne in mind two somewhat conflicting factors - the advice of the Colonial Secretary that as much information as possible should be given in order to confirm our sincerity; and, on the other hand, the security danger of disclosing too much information in advance of figures we have agreed to provide of our forces in contribution to a general scheme for disarmament.

3. The Chiefs of Staff think that their reply goes as far as possible in the face of these two factors. May I have your approval to despatch it?

1	2	3	4	5	6
1				2	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

THIS DOCUMENT IS THE PROPERTY OF HIS BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

The circulation of this paper has been strictly limited.

It is issued for the personal use of S/S Foreign Affairs

TOP SECRET

Copy No. 47.

Circulated for the consideration of the Chiefs of Staff

J.P. (47) 84 (Final)

18th June, 1947.

CHIEFS OF STAFF COMMITTEE

JOINT PLANNING STAFF

INDEXED

PALESTINE: UNITED NATIONS FACT-FINDING COMMITTEE

Report by the Joint Planning Staff.

In anticipation of instructions we have examined a letter⁺ from the Colonial Office concerning the information to be given to the United Nations Fact Finding Committee.

2. In their letter the Colonial Office point out that the Committee are more than likely to ask for information regarding the size of our present garrison and our reason for maintaining forces on this scale. They may also ask about the purpose of military installations recently constructed in the territory.

The Colonial Secretary considers that as much information as possible should be given in order to confirm our sincerity in the matter, and asks for the advice of the Chiefs of Staff on the instructions which should be sent to the High Commissioner and to the G.O.C. Palestine.

3. Our report at Annex is the form of a draft reply from the Chiefs of Staff to the Colonial Office.

Recommendation

4. We recommend that:-
- (a) The draft letter at Annex be sent to the Colonial Office.
 - (b) When the agreement of the Colonial Office has been obtained, the Commanders in Chief Middle East should be informed.

(Signed) J. F. STEVENS
G. H. MILLS
R. H. BARRY.

Ministry of Defence, S.W.1.

18th JUNE, 1947

+ C.O.S. (47) 72.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

ANNEXDraft letter from Chiefs of Staff to the Colonial Office

The Chiefs of Staff have considered your letter of 9th June on the information to be given to the United Nations Fact Finding Committee.

2. The forces at present located in Palestine and engaged in the preservation of internal security and the prevention of illegal immigration are :-

Army (including locally raised forces). The equivalent of two and a half divisions.

Navy 4 Destroyers
4 Frigates or Minesweepers
and a small base party at Haifa.

Air Force 2 Single engined fighter squadrons
1 General Reconnaissance Squadron
and a small number of observation and communication aircraft.

3. Information on our forces in Palestine has already been made public in the report of the Anglo-American Committee of Enquiry on Palestine, where the scope of the commitments facing the Garrison are fully set out. Regarding the size of our forces, the report states :-

"There is a military force stationed in Palestine which is the equivalent of two and a half divisions, and in addition there are a number of Air Force Units and also certain naval forces engaged in coastal patrol and other duties."

4. On security grounds the Chiefs of Staff would prefer not to divulge more information than that already published in this report. They realise, however, that there may well be strong political arguments in favour of disclosing to the Fact Finding Committee the size of our forces in the country in more detail, in which case they would be prepared for the figures for the Navy and Air Force given in paragraph 2 above, to be revealed. The Chiefs of Staff would, however, not be prepared for any further details of the Army forces to be given.

5. They feel that the authorities in Palestine should have no difficulty in justifying to the Committee the maintenance of the existing garrison. That outrages and illegal immigration continue to occur is itself proof that the garrison is barely adequate to ensure the internal security of the country.

6. Regarding any possible questions about recent construction of military installations in Palestine, we can confirm that no buildings nor installations of a permanent nature have been erected since the end of the war. Any military construction work that has been carried out since that date has been confined to meeting the urgent and essential administrative needs of the garrison.

7. The Chiefs of Staff would be grateful if they could be informed of your agreement on these matters in order that they may inform the Service authorities in the Middle East accordingly.

✓ CMD.6808 dated April, 1946.

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:-
FO
371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

INWARD TELEGRAM

14 27

Enter

K

E 5597/5017/11

Cypher (O.T.P.)

FROM PALESTINE (General Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 23rd June, 1947.
R. 23rd " " 16.55 hrs.

INDEXED

No. 1197 Top Secret.

Paragraph 5 of your top secret telegram No. 1212.

At very first meeting of Committee in Palestine (16th June) the Indian delegate asked for figures of present strength of British forces in this country. The Chief Secretary replied that this was a question which should be put to a Representative of Mandatory Power, not to Chamber of Government. The Indian delegate indicated that he would pursue the enquiry, and I have no doubt that question will be brought up again by Committee at an early opportunity. I should be glad to know, therefore, as soon as possible what reply should be given by MacGillivray on your behalf when question is again raised.

Distributed to:-

- MS. 25
- Secretary of State
- Sir T. Lloyd
- Mr. I. Thomas
- Mr. Martin
- Mr. Gutch
- Mr. Trafford Smith
- Mr. Mathieson
- Mr. Higham
- Mr. Bennett
- Mr. Eastwood
- Mr. Bigg
- Miss Boyd
- Foreign Office

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. I.P. Garrahan.

1	
2	
3	
4	
5	
6	

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-
FO
371/61932

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

28
14 F
Encl

E 5577 / 5017 / 21

75872/154/47. Pt. 3.

30 JUN 1947

Cypher (O.T.P.)

TO PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

FROM S. OF S., COLONIES.

Sent 25th June, 1947. 21.30 hrs.

INDEXED

IMMEDIATE.

No. 1375 Top Secret.

Your telegram No. 1197.

Information to UNSCOP on strength of
British forces in Palestine.

Chiefs of Staff would prefer not to divulge
to the Committee more information than that already
published in the report of the Anglo-American
Committee of Enquiry where it was stated:

"There is a military force stationed in Palestine
which is the equivalent of two and a half
divisions, and in addition there are a number of
Air Force Units and also certain naval forces
engaged in coastal patrol and other duties".

If however the Committee press for further
information on the strength of the various services
they may be informed that total strength of army units
in Palestine is approximately 74,400, of whom 42,400

/are

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

are operational troops and 32,000 administrative, that the Royal Navy keep a small base party at Haifa and that the strength of the Royal Air Force is two single-engined fighter squadrons, one general reconnaissance squadron and a small number of observation and communication aircraft. The Chiefs of Staff feel, and I agree, that there should be no difficulty in justifying to the Committee the maintenance of the existing garrison. That outrages and illegal immigration continue to occur is proof that the garrison is barely adequate to ensure the internal security of the country.

2. In reply to any possible questions about recent construction of military installations in Palestine it can be confirmed that no buildings or installations of a permanent nature have been erected since the end of the war. If necessary it may be added that any military construction work carried out since that date has been confined to meeting the urgent and essential administrative needs of the garrison.

3. Above information may be given to the Committee either by yourself (or MacMillan on your behalf) or by G.O.C.

4. The Chiefs of Staff are informing service authorities in the Middle East accordingly.

Distributed to:-/

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

OUTWARD TELEGRAM

30

Distributed to:-

MS. 25
Secretary of State
Sir T. Lloyd
Mr. I. Thomas
Mr. Martin
Mr. Gutch
Mr. Trafford Smith
Mr. Mathieson
Mr. Higham
Mr. Bennett
Mr. Eastwood
Mr. Bigg
Miss Boyd
Foreign Office
" "
War Office (M.O. 4.)
Ministry of Defence

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
- Mr. H. Beeley.
- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
- Grp. Capt. Stapleton.

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1		2	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

E

E 7141

7 AUG 1947

1947

PALESTINE

Registry Number } E7141/5017/31
 FROM
 No. 60.
 Dated 6 ammd.
 Received in Registry } 7 Aug.

Activities of British troops and Police in Palestine.
 Palestine tel 1467 of Aug. 1.
 Transmits report on disturbances in Tel Aviv, during night of 31 July, involving British troops and Police.

Last Paper.

5-537

References.

(Minutes.)

9 a.p. Palestine tel	1468	1/8
— " —	1472	1/8
— " —	1479	2/8

1473. 7/8

(Print.)

(How disposed of.)

(Action completed.)

5/26/48

(Index.)

13/9/48

Next Paper.

1
2
3
4
5
6

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

Enter 32

INWARD TELEGRAM

7141
7 AUG 1947

Ku Clair.

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 1st August, 1947.

R. 1st August, 1947. 16.15 hours.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

NO. 1467.

Your telegram No. 1717.

Following first report subject to confirmation.

On Night of 31st July a party of soldiers and police created disturbance in Tel Aviv. Damage was caused to some 25 shops.

2. At about 2200 hours a taxi was fired on from an armoured car and a truck. Three civilians were injured.

3. At about 2205 hours armoured cars opened fire on a bus. One civilian was killed and five injured.

4. At about 22.30 hours an armoured car opened fire on a bus, killing two and injuring four civilians. Shortly afterwards an armoured car, believed to be the same one, pulled up outside a cafe. Shots were fired and a grenade thrown into the cafe, killing one and injuring three civilians.

5. Total casualties killed 5 injured 26, of whom 9 were detained in hospital. As far as is known, all were Jews.

6. Further reports will be telegraphed as soon as details are available.

/Copies

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

RECEIVED
1937

Copies sent to:-

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| Foreign Office | - Private Secretary. |
| " " | - Mr. C.W. Baxter. |
| " " | - Mr. N. Butler. |
| " " | - Dominions Intelligence Department. |
| " (Research Dept) | - Air Commodore K.C. Buss. |
| " (Middle East Secretariat) | - Mr. D.A. Greenhill. |
| " " | - Maj. Gen. A.J.C. Pollock |
| " " | - Mr. T.A. Robertson. |
| M.I.5 | - Gen. Sir L. Hoellie. |
| Cabinet Offices | - Group Capt. Stapleton. |
| " " | - Mr. T.A.G. Charlton. |
| " " | - Chief of Naval Staff. |
| Admiralty | - C.I.G.S. |
| War Office | - Lt. Col. W. Gore. |
| " (M.I.3) | - Maj. Telfer Smollett. |
| " (M.I.5a) | - Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson. |
| " (M.O.4) | - Chief of Air Staff. |
| Air Ministry | - Private Secretary. |
| Ministry of Defence | - Sir Henry Wilson Smith. |
| Private Secretary, No. 10 Downing Street. | |
| J.A.R. Pinnett, Esq., Private Secretary to the Lord President of the Council. | |

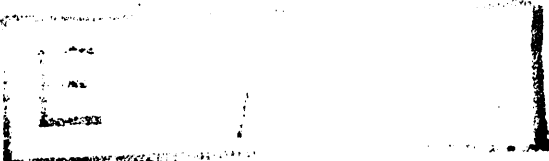
1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON



INDEXED

En Clair.

INWARD TELEGRAM

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)

TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 1st August, 1947.
R. 1st August, 1947. 16.55 hours.

MOST IMMEDIATE.

No. 1468.

My Telegram No. 1467.

Following is text of statement made by public information officer in reply to questions today. Begins.

It is notified that immediate steps have been taken to obtain full information regarding the incidents which occurred in TelAviv during last night, and in the light of the results appropriate action will be taken. Meanwhile, the Military and Police authorities are guarding against any possible recurrence of similar incidents. A statement will be issued as soon as sufficient information as to the facts has been collected.
Ends.

/Copies

1					
2					
3					
4					
5					
6					

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

35
Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	- Private Secretary.
" "	- Mr. C.W. Baxter.
" "	- Mr. W. Butler.
" "	- Dominions Intelligence Department.
" (Research Dept)	- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
" (Middle East Secretariat)	- Mr. D.A. Greenhill.
" " "	- Maj. Gen. A. J. C. Palkock.
H.I.5	- Mr. T.A. Robertson.
Cabinet Offices	- Gen. Sir L. Hollis.
" "	- Group Capt. Stapleton.
" "	- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
Admiralty	- Chief of Naval Staff.
War Office	- C.I.G.S.
" " (H.I.3)	- Lt. Col. W. Gore.
" " (H.I.3a)	- Maj. Telfer Smollett.
" " (H.O.4)	- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
Air Ministry	- Chief of Air Staff.
Ministry of Defense	- Private Secretary.
" " "	- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
Private Secretary, No. 10 Downing Street.	
J.A.R. Pimlott, Esq., Private Secretary to the Lord President of the Council.	

1	2	3	4	5	6
		1			
				2	

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

INWARD TELEGRAM

En Clair

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham)TO S. OF S., COLONIES.

D. 1st August, 1947.

R. 1st " " 20.32 hrs.

MOST IMMEDIATE

No. 1472

Your unnumbered telegram².

Tel Aviv.

It is confirmed that the figures in paragraphs 2 to 4 and in the fifth paragraph of my telegram No. 1467 do not agree. The latter one 5 killed and 16 injured, of whom 9 were detained in Hospital: these, as stated, represent total casualties as at present known. The former paragraphs, the figures in which add up to 4 killed and 15 injured, are to be taken as explanatory. The manner in which the remaining 1 killed and 1 injured became casualties is not yet known.

²Telegraph Section service telegram requesting confirmation of figures in High Commissioner's telegram No. 1467.

/Copies

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office	Private Secretary.
" "	Mr. C.W. Baxter.
" "	Mr. N. Butler.
" " (Research Dept.)	Dominions Intelligence Dept.
" " (Middle East Secretariat)	Air Commodore K.C. Buss.
" " " " " "	Mr. D.A. Greenhill.
M.I.5	Maj. Gen. A.J.C. Pollock.
Cabinet Offices	Mr. T.A. Robertson.
" "	Gen. Sir L. Hollis.
" "	Grp. Capt. Stapleton.
Admiralty	Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.
War Office	Chief of Naval Staff.
" " (M.I.3)	C.I.G.S.
" " (M.I.3a)	Lt. Col. W. Gore.
" " (M.O.4)	Maj. Telfer Smollett.
Air Ministry	Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.
Ministry of Defence	Chief of Air Staff.
" " " "	Private Secretary.
" " " "	Sir Henry Wilson Smith.
Private Secretary, No. 10 Downing Street.	
J.A.R. Pimlott, Esq., Private Secretary to the	
Lord President of the Council.	

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON

38

End

URGENT TELEGRAM

En Clair

FROM PALESTINE (Gen. Sir A. Cunningham) 1947

TO S. OF S. COLONIES.

D. 2nd August, 1947.

R. 2nd " " 16. 20 hrs.

URGENT

URGENT

No. 1479.

My telegram No. 1472.

Tel Aviv.

Full details will be telegraphed as soon as received.

Copies sent to:-

Foreign Office

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

M. I. 3.

Cabinet Offices

" "

" "

Admiralty

War Office

" "

" "

" "

" "

Air Ministry

Ministry of Defence

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

" "

- Private Secretary.

- Mr. C.W. Baxter.

- Mr. N. Butler.

- Dominions Intelligence Dept.

- Air Commodore K.C. Buss.

- Mr. D.A. Greenhill.

- Maj. Gen. A.J.C. Pollock.

- Mr. T.A. Robertson.

- Gen. Sir L. Hollis.

- Grp. Capt. Stapleton.

- Mr. T.A.G. Charlton.

- Chief of Naval Staff.

- C. I. G. S.

- Lt. Col. W. Gore.

- Maj. Telfer Smollett.

- Lt. Col. J.G. Atkinson.

- Chief of Air Staff.

- Private Secretary.

- Sir Henry Wilson Smith.

Private Secretary, No. 10 Downing Street.

J.A.R. Smollett, Esq., Private Secretary to the

Lord President of the Council.

1
2
3
4
5
6

Reference:-

FO

371/61932

COPYRIGHT OF THE PUBLIC RECORD OFFICE, LONDON